

Appendix G

Liberty Fisheries Outreach Meeting Minutes



Meeting Minutes

Date:	March 10, 2012
Location:	Montauk, NY (Inlet Seafood)

In Attendance	
Name	Title/Company/Organization
Bonnie Brady	Executive Director, Long Island Commercial Fishing Association
Dave Aripotch	Owner/operator of commercial fishing vessel
Hank Lackner	Owner/operator of commercial fishing vessel
Richie Jones	Owner/operator of commercial fishing vessel
Jim Donofrio	Recreational Fishing Alliance
Jason Goldstein	Liberty

Summary
Port Ambrose project introduction and stakeholder outreach to commercial fishing industry.

Discussion	
Topic	Key Points/Action Items
Project introduction	Discussion of project location, current status, and design of vessels.
Atlantic Sturgeon	ESA listing of Atlantic Sturgeon mentioned as potential impact for both fisherman and project during construction.
Location of fishing activity	It was mentioned that charts of commercial fishing activity based on NOAA vessel monitoring system (VMS) data may not be up to date. Fishing grounds may vary slightly year by year. Discussion of how project location could affect ability to "chase" fish. Explanation of limited project footprint.
Cholera Bank	Discussion on project location and potential impact to Cholera Bank from suspension of silt/clays. Discussion that geological surveys/sampling have found that sand is predominate substrate so this should not be an issue.
Loligo Squid/Atlantic Mackerel	Discussion of potential impacts to Loligo squid and Atlantic Mackerel. Loligo squid could be affected by construction and operations; Atlantic

	Mackerel by impacts on fish migration. Discussion of potential mitigation.
Otter Trawls	Discussion about ability of otter trawls to be towed over portion of the line with engineered backfill. Concern raised that portions of the pipeline may not be buried. Discussion of pipeline design and efforts to restore backfill to prevent trawl hang-up.
Mitigation	Discussion of potential compensatory mitigation, including financial mitigation program developed for Boston deepwater ports.



Meeting Minutes

Date:	March 10, 2012
Location:	Montauk, NY

In Attendance	
Name	Title/Company/Organization
William (Bill) Wilkinson	Supervisor, Town of East Hampton
Rick Etzel	Chair, East Hampton Fisheries Advisory Committee
Joe McBride	Past President, Montauk Boatman's and Captain's Association
Jason Goldstein	Liberty
Jim Donofrio	Recreational Fishing Alliance

Summary
Port Ambrose project introduction and stakeholder outreach.

Discussion	
Topic	Key Points/Action Items
Project introduction	Overview of project purpose, location, and benefits.
Project location	Most members of the Montauk Boatman's and Captain's Association fish to the north and east of the project location.
NGO concerns	Discussion of main NGO concerns and applicability to project.
Cholera Bank	Discussion on project location and potential impact to Cholera Bank from suspension of silt/clays. Discussion that geological surveys/sampling have found that sand is predominate substrate so this should not be an issue.
Political outreach	Suggestion that Liberty reach out to Senator LaValle and Assemblyman Losquadro (1 st District).



Meeting Minutes

Date:	March 10, 2012
Location:	Montauk, NY

In Attendance	
Name	Title/Company/Organization
James Coronesi	Owner of Cor-J Seafood Corporation
Various vessel captains	Six captains that own/operate multispecies draggers
Jason Goldstein	Liberty
Jim Donofrio	Recreational Fishing Alliance

Summary
Port Ambrose project introduction and stakeholder outreach to commercial fishing industry.

Discussion	
Topic	Key Points/Action Items
Project introduction	Overview of project purpose, location, and benefits.
NMFS charts	Similar concerns raised as during the Inlet meeting regarding accuracy of NOAA charts. Suggestion that fisherman could assist in charting.
Vessel/equipment interaction	Discussion about concerns and measures to be adopted to prevent interaction with project vessels and fishing vessels, and safety zones for prevention of hanging gear on buoys and mooring arrays.
Trawls	Discussion of ability of trawls to pass over pipeline. Smaller, lighter trawls not considered an issue. Larger trawls identified as a potential issue. Mention that project could benefit lobster fisherman by creating more lobster habitat.
Contract interest	Fisherman indicated that they were hired during the installation of an offshore communications cable in 2000. Several expressed interest in similar opportunities during port construction.



Meeting Minutes

Date:	April 8, 2014
Location:	Albany, NY

In Attendance	
Name	Title/Company/Organization
Tom Congdon	Deputy Secretary for Energy, State of New York
Anne Tarpinian	Assistant Secretary for the Environment
Jim Hutchinson	New York Sportfishing Federation/NY Fishing Tackle Trade Association
Guy Ahearn	Staten Island Tuna Club
Jim Donofrio	Recreational Fishing Alliance

Summary
Port Ambrose project introduction and stakeholder outreach.

Discussion	
Topic	Key Points/Action Items
Project introduction	Overview of project background, status, and location.
Sea bottom	Discussion of how there will be a loss of sea bottom associated with the project, but that the area is not frequented by fisherman because the sandy bottom does not support fish.
Project benefits	Discussion that the project will benefit New York and New Jersey by lowering energy costs.



Meeting Minutes

Date:	June 10, 2015
Location:	Short Hills, New Jersey

In Attendance	
Name	Title/Company/Organization
Peter Hughes	Atlantic Cape Fisheries/Fisheries Survival Fund
Jim Donofrio	Recreational Fishing Alliance
John DePersenaire	Recreational Fishing Alliance
Andrew Minkiewicz	Kelley, Drye & Warren LLP
David Frulla	Kelley, Drye & Warren LLP
Jason Goldstein	Liberty
Frank Smolenski	AECOM

Summary
Discussion of Port Ambrose project with representatives of Fisheries Survival Fund, including concerns raised in public comments regarding commercial scallop fisheries.

Discussion	
Topic	Key Points/Action Items
Introductions	General introductions and identification of main issues of concern with Port Ambrose project.
Project overview	Discussion of project overview and history.
Scallop industry concerns	Discussion of scallop industry fishery assessment fund programs that are used to supplement existing federal agency programs to identify productive scallop fishing grounds. In general, the scallop industry is sensitive to losing bottom habitat.
Project analysis of scallop densities	Overview of site-specific field work conducted to evaluate benthic communities. Discussion of field work results indicating that project area is not a commercially viable scallop fishery due to low density. Interest in comparing data from Liberty surveys with their data sets.

Further discussion of industry surveys	There are three main surveys that assess the Atlantic scallop fishery – the Virginia Institute of Marine Science survey, the Northeast Fishery Science Center survey, and the industry video survey. Recommendation that Liberty follow up with Ms. Dvora Hart, lead scientist for the Atlantic sea scallop assessment. Suggestion that Liberty reach out to her for access to the various surveys to compare available data for the project site.
Data exchange	The parties agreed to share and exchange all data on survey work and assessments.



Meeting Minutes

Date:	June 17, 2013
Location:	Staten Island, NY

In Attendance	
Name	Title/Company/Organization
John Malizia	Marine Fisheries Director, Staten Island Tuna Club
Guy "Bill" Ahearn	President, Staten Island Tuna Club
Jason Goldstein	Liberty
Jim Donofrio	Recreational Fishing Alliance
John DePersenaire	Recreational Fishing Alliance

Summary
Port Ambrose project introduction and stakeholder outreach to Staten Island Tuna Club.

Discussion	
Topic	Key Points/Action Items
Introduction	Project overview and discussion of meeting purpose to provide an opportunity for fisherman to directly ask questions about the project.
Organization overview	Introduction and overview of Staten Island Tuna Club history and membership.
STL project technology	Discussion of differences between the Port Ambrose buoy-based project and the man-made island LNG proposal. Explanation that Port Ambrose shares the same technology and design as the two Boston LNG deepwater ports. Clarification and discussion that no open-loop vaporization systems will be used, which could harm sea life. Discussion of support vessel for emergency towage and security. Explanation of pipeline burial to protect the line.
Safety zones	Discussion of the differences between mobile/moving safety zones around LNG vessels that call at onshore facilities and the fixed safety zone for Port Ambrose 19 miles from shore.

Vessel Collision	Concern raised that passing vessels could potentially collide with an LNG carrier unloading gas. Discussion of safety zones and capability to disconnect from buoy in under 15 minutes to avoid incidents. Description of Coast Guard safety and risk assessment review for the project.
Cholera Bank	Discussion on project location and potential impact to Cholera Bank, which is four miles south of the pipeline. Explanation that substrate is coarse sand so sedimentation is not an issue. Concerns raised regarding shipwrecks including the Yankee. Discussion on the extensive field work and analysis to investigate cultural resources to prevent any disruption of charted or uncharted wrecks.
Project operating life and pipeline protection	Discussion of the operating lifespan of the project. Detailed discussion on measures to protect the pipeline including backfill.
Vessel notification	Discussion on measures that will be used to notify vessels of the safety zones, including Coast Guard Notices to Mariners, and onsite monitoring by support vessel, which has full communications capabilities.
Vessel offloading	Discussion of frequency and duration of vessel offloads.
Fish productivity	Suggestion that while the project appears to be in an area that is infrequently fished, there could be some productive areas nearby that should be evaluated.
Natural gas	The need for additional natural gas infrastructure questioned in light of increasing use of wind and solar. Discussion that wind and solar are important resources but have not developed to a point where they can reduce costs or reliably supply energy during peak demand periods. Discussion that natural gas can directly help the shift away from coal and heating oil use.
Offshore wind	Questions regarding whether or how Port Ambrose would affect the proposed Collaborative wind farm. Discussion of the small footprint of Port Ambrose and the ability to co-exist.
Project location	Discussion of factors considered when deciding the location of the project, including avoiding fishing grounds.
Exports and import supply	Concerns raised that the project would lead to exports of LNG. Discussion that exports are not viable due to design, permits, and economics. Discussion of source of natural gas for imports (Trinidad and Tobago).
Pipeline installation	Concerns raised that toxic substances could be released during drilling to install the pipeline (seen in other projects). Explanation that no drilling would occur for pipeline installation – only digging a trench.
Fisherman outreach	Question regarding Liberty's other outreach efforts to fishing groups. Discussion on the other groups, and suggestion that Liberty meet with Freeport Tuna Club.

Regulatory process	Questions raised about the timing of the review process, including scoping.
Mitigation	Discussion of potential compensatory mitigation. Overview of Boston deepwater port mitigation plans.



Meeting Minutes

Date:	August 28, 2013
Location:	Trenton, NJ

In Attendance	
Name	Title/Company/Organization
Greg DeDiminico	Garden State Seafood Association (GSSA)
Scot Mackey	MBI GluckShaw
Jason Goldstein	Liberty
Jim Donofrio	Recreational Fishing Alliance
John DePersenaire	Recreational Fishing Alliance

Summary
Port Ambrose project introduction and stakeholder outreach to fishing industry.

Discussion	
Topic	Key Points/Action Items
Project introduction	Overview of project.
GSSA overview	Discussion of GSSA and its membership. GSSA is the largest commercial fishing organization in the state.
Project location and size	Discussion of the differences of the previously canceled project and the relocated and redesigned new project. Acknowledged that little to no fishing activity occurs in the new project location.
Mitigation	Discussion of potential compensatory mitigation and process that was followed for Boston deepwater ports.
Exports	The group asked about the possibility of exports from the facility, as that is a significant concern of environmental groups. Discussion on how exports are not feasible due to the project design, permits, and economics.
Safety zones	Discussion of safety zones around buoys, location, and potential enforcement. No concerns about fishing in the area, but questions raised

	about how enforcement would work if a vessel accidentally transits the zone.
Fisheries impact	Indication that the new location would have little impact to commercial fisherman in New Jersey, but raised the importance of the scallop industry. However, scallop fishing typically does not occur in project location.